

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Donations in AF For Gift Ordered

By Drew Pearson

When you're in the Army, Navy, or Air Force and receive orders from your commanding officer to attend a social function, you obey. If you also get an order to contribute to a fund for the commander's wife, you also obey. For orders are orders in the armed forces. It is a matter of mandatory social activity. Persson and compulsory generosity is not helping morale in the armed forces.



Here is an illustration of what happened at Lake Charles Air Force Base, Louisiana, when Col. Robert L. Barrowclough, 38th Bombardment Wing, All officers received a letter from the deputy commander, Col. A. J. Bratton Jr. It read:

"The 38th Bombardment Wing will sponsor a farewell party for Col. and Mrs. Robert L. Barrowclough on the night of Friday, 19 July, 1957. Each officer of the wing will be charged the following amounts for the party by rank:

- 1. Colonel \$25; 2. Lt. Colonel \$15; 3. Major \$10; 4. Captain \$8.00; 5. Lieutenant \$7; 6. Warrant Officer \$5.

Each squadron commander is responsible for collecting this amount from each officer in his squadron. This money must be turned in to the wing adjutant listed by name not later than 1700 hours, 3 July 57."

It was also explained that the above would include buffet, drinks, entertainment, dancing, and "gift for Mrs. Barrowclough."

The officers went. They contributed. Many of them were strong for the commander and his wife. But they felt a little less so after being required by mandatory order to make up for their farewell party.

German Property

Every year as Congress is about to adjourn, there's a big push to return German war-time property to Germany. This is because it's sometimes easier to put a bill across during the closing rush of Congress when Senators are anxious to go home and will sometimes pass almost anything to get lobbyists and legislation out of their hair.

Right now the pressure boys and "observers" are fluttering around Washington. Two figures are interesting. They are: 1. Hermann Ahs, former managing director of the Deutsche Bank under the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler, today a director of the Bundesdeutsche Bank in Germany. He also heads the "Society for Promotion of Foreign Investments" and has been announced in a suite at the Carlton Hotel in Washington, carefully spying the congressional scene.

2. Maj. Gen. Julius Klein, affable, persistent Illinois National Guard officer and one-time commander of the Jewish War Veterans. Klein is working for Ahs.

Both Klein and Ahs deny that they are lobbying for the return of German property. Klein is especially upset over the fact that his organization, the Jewish War Veterans, has gone on record against the return of alien property seized in this country during the war. Some of its members are now critical of him. He also has protested vigorously against this column's assertion that his German client, Ahs, is masterminding the drive to return German property.

Instead of lobbying, Klein and Ahs claim they are working for the "general relationship"

good look at these two gentlemen and see exactly what they are doing.

\$40,000 Plus

Gen. Klein is paid \$40,000 plus expenses to work for this "general principle." At first, Gen. Klein did not register with the Justice Department as a foreign agent. He claimed he was working for a German businessman, not for the German government. He also insisted that he was not lobbying for legislation on behalf of his foreign client. He demanded an exemption from registration on the grounds that he was just a commercial representative.

The Justice Department, however, took a contrary view. Its representative telephoned Gen. Klein with the friendly suggestion that he register. When Klein appeared reluctant, the Justice Department became firm. As a result, Gen. Klein registered as a foreign agent. There are now 50 in, and, or but about 11.

Hermann Ahs also denies vigorously that he is lobbying for the return of German property. He does argue, however, that unless German assets are returned to Germany, Chancellor Adenauer may lose the election on Sept. 15 and that a new Socialist government in Germany would come into power which would pull out of NATO.

This has now become the official view of the State Department. Secretary Dulles, who once acted as the attorney for American bankers when they poured millions of dollars into Germany just before Hitler, has reversed his previous position. He also reversed the Justice Department which was and still secretly is fully opposed to the return of German property.

Ahs has now won his point. His next hurdle is the hearing in the House Interstate Commerce Committee where Congressman Peter Mack Jr. of Illinois is going to be a tougher obstacle to overcome.

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